

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and consideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17, 18, 20, 24-26 and 30-43 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17, 18, 20, 24-26 and 30-43 have been rejected. By the above amendment, new Claims 44-46 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17, 18, 20, 24-26 and 30-46 are currently pending.

Claim Objections

Within the Office Action, the spelling of the word “cancelling” was objected to in Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17, 18, 20, 24-26 and 30-43. The Applicant submits that there are two correct spellings for the word: cancelling and canceling. Attached to this response is a printout from Merriam-Webster. Since the Applicant chose to use the “two-L” version in the application, including in the title and throughout the specification, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the second correct form of the word in the application. Allowance of the second proper spelling will spare numerous amendments to the specifications, title and claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17, 18, 20, 24-26 and 30-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by and unpatentable over the published European Patent Application No. EP 0 812 092 A2 to Makoto Sato et al. (hereinafter “Sato”). The applicants respectfully submit that Sato does not disclose, teach, or even suggest the present invention.

Sato teaches a method and system for controlling the communication of electronic equipment. Sato teaches a controlling device transmitting a notify command to a target device, receiving an interim response from the target device and transmitting a notify (cancel) command. [Sato, Abstract] Sato teaches that the controller transmits a cancel command to the target, requesting the target to discontinue the execution of the notify command. [Sato, col. 13, lines 4-7] Sato does not teach sending a status command to cancel a pending notify command, wherein the status command is sent while the pending notify command is pending. Sato also does not teach sending a duplicate notify command to cancel a pending notify command, wherein the duplicate of the pending notify command is sent while the pending notify command is pending. The cancel command taught by Sato to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command is

a dedicated “cancel” command. The cancel command is dedicated in the sense that the command requires an additional operand and the command’s only function is to cancel the notify command. Sato only teaches that a notify command (that is, where the CT/RC field contains “notify”) where the OPR field contains “cancel” immediately cancels the notify command if an interim response is received by the controller. In other words, Sato teaches that the dedicated “cancel” command is a *modified notify command*, not a duplicate of the original notify command or a status command. [Sato, col. 13, lines 38-42] As taught within Sato:

[t]he notify (cancel) command is a kind of notify command to request the target to discontinue the execution of the previous notify command. Typically, a notify (cancel) command is formed by replacing ‘dummy’ in the OPR field in the format of a notify command by ‘cancel’. [Sato, col. 13, lines 38-42]

Thus, the dedicated cancel command taught by Sato specifically includes ‘cancel’ within the command itself. Furthermore, there is no suggestion in Sato that a status command or a duplicate notify command can be used in lieu of a modified and dedicated “notify (cancel) command” to cancel the pending notify command. Sato does not disclose, teach, or even suggest sending a status command or a duplicate of the pending notify command, to cancel the pending notify command.

In contrast to the teachings of Sato, the method and apparatus for cancelling a pending notify command, of the present invention, includes a mechanism which allows a controlling device to cancel a pending notify command by sending a status command or a duplicate notify command while the pending notify command is still pending. A target device which receives a notify command from a controlling device, first sends an interim response to the controlling device. When the state of the target device changes, the target device then sends a notify response to the controlling device. Before the state of the target device changes, while the notify command is pending, if the target device receives the cancelling command, the target device then cancels the pending notify command. In one embodiment, the cancelling command is a status command sent while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a cancelling command to cancel a pending notify command, wherein the cancelling command is a status command sent while the pending notify command is pending. In another embodiment, the cancelling command is a duplicate of the pending notify command sent while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a cancelling command to cancel a pending notify command,

wherein the cancelling command is a duplicate of the pending notify command sent while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, the cancel command taught by Sato to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command is a dedicated "cancel" command.

The "notify (cancel) command" of Sato is dedicated in that the command requires additional operands in the operand field (OPR) and its only function is to cancel the notify command. Sato only teaches that a notify command where the operand field (OPR) contains "cancel" immediately cancels the pending notify command if an interim response is received by the controller. The present invention is distinguishable from Sato since in one embodiment a status command is used to cancel the pending notify command and in another embodiment an exact duplicate of the notify command is used to cancel the pending notify command. In neither embodiment of the present invention is a modified notify command utilized to cancel the pending notify command as in Sato. The present invention is further distinguishable since no additional operands are required to implement the cancellation of the pending notify command when using a notify command to cancel the pending notify command. In one embodiment, a notify-type command is not used. In another embodiment, an exact copy of the original notify command is used to cancel the pending notify command. The present invention discloses that the status command and the duplicate of the pending notify command cancel the pending notify command.

Within the Response to Arguments section, Column 6, Lines 20-54 of Sato is cited in support of the position that Sato suggests a status command can be used to cancel a pending notify command instead of a notify command. The applicants respectfully disagree with this position as the cited section is inapposite. The cited section of Sato simply discusses the general known features of certain types of commands (inquiry, status and notify) that are allowed in the command set. It is noted within Sato that the status command, as well as the inquiry command and status command, has the property of not changing the state of the target device, but there is no connection made in the cited section nor anywhere else in the text of Sato between this property and alternative methods of cancelling a pending notify command at a target device. There is simply no hint at a nexus between this feature and possible alternative methods in Sato. Nowhere in Sato is sending a status command or a duplicate of the pending notify command to cancel a pending notify command taught or suggested. Accordingly, Sato does not disclose, teach, or even suggest using a status command or a duplicate of the pending notify command, to cancel a pending notify command.

The independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of cancelling a pending notify command at a target device. The method of Claim 1 comprises sending a cancelling command over a

network from a controlling device to the target device, wherein the cancelling command is a status command sent while the pending notify command is pending and cancelling the pending notify command at the target device when the cancelling command is received while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a status command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

Claims 5 and 6 are dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 6 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 7 is directed to a target device for communicating with a controlling device over a network. The target device of Claim 7 comprises means for communicating with the controlling device over the network, the means for communicating including ability to receive a notify command from the controlling device, issue an interim response to the notify command to the controlling device and receive a cancelling command from the controlling device, wherein the cancelling command is a status command sent while the pending notify command is pending and means for cancelling coupled to the means for communicating for cancelling a pending notify command if a cancelling command is received from the controlling device while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a status command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 7 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

Claims 11 and 12 are dependent upon the independent Claim 7. As discussed above, the independent Claim 7 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claims 11 and 12 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 13 is directed to a target device configured to communicate with a controlling device over a network. The target device of Claim 13 comprises an interface circuit configured to communicate with the controlling device over the network, the interface circuit including ability to receive a notify command from the controlling device, issue an interim response to the notify command and receive a cancelling command from the controlling device, wherein the cancelling command is a status command sent while the pending notify command is

pending and a control circuit coupled to the interface circuit to cancel a pending notify command if a cancelling command is received from the controlling device while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a status command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 13 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

Claims 17 and 18 are dependent upon the independent Claim 13. As discussed above, the independent Claim 13 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claims 17 and 18 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 20 is directed to a network of devices coupled together comprising a controlling device configured to send a cancelling command to cancel a pending notify command, wherein the cancelling command is a status command sent while the pending notify command is pending and a target device including an interface circuit configured to communicate with the controlling device to receive the cancelling command from the controlling device and a control circuit coupled to the interface circuit to cancel a pending notify command if the cancelling command is received from the controlling device while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a status command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

Claims 24 and 25 are dependent upon the independent Claim 20. As discussed above, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claims 24 and 25 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 26 is directed to a network of devices coupled together by a standard IEEE 1394 serial bus comprising a controlling device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus and configured for sending a cancelling command over the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus, wherein the cancelling command is a status command sent while the pending notify command is pending and a target device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus and configured for receiving the cancelling command and cancelling a pending notify command if the cancelling command is received while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does

not teach or make obvious sending a status command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 26 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

The independent Claim 30 is directed to a method of cancelling a pending notify command at a target device. The method of Claim 30 comprises sending a cancelling command over a network from a controlling device to the target device, wherein the cancelling command is a duplicate of the pending notify command sent while the pending notify command is pending and cancelling the pending notify command at the target device when the cancelling command is received while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a duplicate of the pending notify command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

Claims 31 and 32 are dependent upon the independent Claim 30. As discussed above, the independent Claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claims 31 and 32 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 33 is directed to a target device for communicating with a controlling device over a network. The target device of Claim 33 comprises means for communicating with the controlling device over the network, the means for communicating including ability to receive a notify command from the controlling device, issue an interim response to the notify command to the controlling device and receive a cancelling command from the controlling device, wherein the cancelling command is a duplicate of the pending notify command sent while the pending notify command is pending and means for cancelling coupled to the means for communicating for cancelling a pending notify command if a cancelling command is received from the controlling device while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a duplicate of the pending notify command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

Claims 34 and 35 are dependent upon the independent Claim 33. As discussed above, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claims 34 and 35 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 36 is directed to a target device configured to communicate with a controlling device over a network. The target device of Claim 36 comprises an interface circuit

configured to communicate with the controlling device over the network, the interface circuit including ability to receive a notify command from the controlling device, issue an interim response to the notify command and receive a cancelling command from the controlling device, wherein the cancelling command is a duplicate of the pending notify command sent while the pending notify command is pending and a control circuit coupled to the interface circuit to cancel a pending notify command if a cancelling command is received from the controlling device while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a duplicate of the pending notify command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 36 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

Claims 37 and 38 are dependent upon the independent Claim 36. As discussed above, the independent Claim 36 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claims 37 and 38 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 39 is directed to a network of devices coupled together comprising a controlling device configured to send a cancelling command to cancel a pending notify command, wherein the cancelling command is a duplicate of the pending notify command sent while the pending notify command is pending and a target device. The target device includes an interface circuit configured to communicate with the controlling device to receive the cancelling command from the controlling device and a control circuit coupled to the interface circuit to cancel a pending notify command if the cancelling command is received from the controlling device while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a duplicate of the pending notify command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 39 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

Claims 40 and 41 are dependent upon the independent Claim 39. As discussed above, the independent Claim 39 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claims 40 and 41 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 42 is directed to a network of devices coupled together by a standard IEEE 1394 serial bus. The network of devices of Claim 42 comprises a controlling device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus and configured for sending a cancelling command over the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus, wherein the cancelling command is

a duplicate of the pending notify command sent while the pending notify command is pending and a target device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus and configured for receiving the cancelling command and cancelling a pending notify command if the cancelling command is received while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a duplicate of the pending notify command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 42 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

The independent Claim 43 is directed to a method of communicating between a controlling device and a target device. The method of Claim 43 comprises sending a notify command from the controlling device to the target device thereby establishing a pending notify command, sending the notify command a second time from the controlling device to the target device, while the pending notify command is pending, as a cancelling command and cancelling the pending notify command at the target device when the notify command is received while the pending notify command is pending. As discussed above, Sato teaches sending a dedicated “cancel” command to discontinue the execution of a pending notify command. As also discussed above, Sato does not teach or make obvious sending a duplicate of the pending notify command to cancel a pending notify command. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 43 is allowable over the teachings of Sato.

The new Claim 44 is dependent on the Claim 43. As discussed above, independent Claim 43 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claim 44 is allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

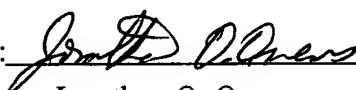
The new Claim 45 is dependent on the Claim 1. As discussed above, independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claim 45 is allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The new Claim 46 is dependent on the Claim 30. As discussed above, independent Claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Sato. Accordingly, Claim 46 is allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP


Dated: July 28, 2005

By: 
Jonathan O. Owens
Reg. No.: 37,902
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Thesaurus

One entry found for **cancel**.

Main Entry: **1 can cel** 🗨

Pronunciation: 'kan (t) - s&l

Function: *verb*

Inflected Form(s): **-celed or -celled; -cel ing or can cel ling**

🗨 /-s (&-) li [ng]/

Etymology: Middle English *cancellen*, from Middle French *canceller*, from Late Latin *cancellare*, from Latin, to make like a lattice, from *cancelli* (plural), diminutive of *cancer* lattice, probably alteration of *carcer* prison

transitive senses

1 a : to destroy the force, effectiveness, or validity of :

ANNUL <cancel a magazine subscription> <a canceled

check> **b** : to bring to nothingness : **DESTROY** **c** : to match in force or effect : **OFFSET** -- often used with *out* <his irritability canceled out his natural kindness -- Osbert Sitwell> **d** : to call off usually without expectation of conducting or performing at a later time <cancel a football game>

2 a : to mark or strike out for deletion **b** : **OMIT, DELETE**

3 a : to remove (a common divisor) from numerator and denominator **b** : to remove (equivalents) on opposite sides of an equation or account

4 : to deface (a postage or revenue stamp) especially with a set of ink lines so as to invalidate for reuse

intransitive senses : to neutralize each other's strength or effect : **COUNTERBALANCE**

- **can cel able or can cel la ble** 🗨 /-s (&-) l&-b&l/ *adjective*

- **can cel er or can cel ler** 🗨 /-s (&-) l&r/ *noun*

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cancel

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